

REMARKS

Amendment to the Specification

The Federal Research Statement has been amended to correct the contract by which Government support was provided to making the invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendment.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 3, 5-10 and 12 are pending in the present application upon entry of the foregoing amendments. Claims 1, 11, and 13-20 have been cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claim 12. Applicants have cancelled the only other pending independent claim and have amended the remaining dependent claims to depend upon Claim 12. Reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,548,876 to Bregoli (hereinafter "Bregoli"). The rejection is respectfully traversed as moot in view of Applicants' claim amendments.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

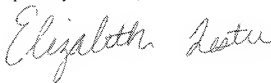
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0197518 to Blanchet et al. (hereinafter "Blanchet"). The rejection is respectfully traversed as moot in view of Applicants' claim amendments.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims as amended are both novel and patentable over the cited prior art. Allowance of the pending amended claims is earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues which can be resolved by a telephone interview or with an examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 404.853.8012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Lester".

By: Elizabeth A. Lester
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